



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
**REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK**

# **Election Observer Panel Plan**

**REGISTRAR:** Dean C. Logan, Acting Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk  
Telephone Number (562) 462-2715

**CONTACT:** Efrain Escobedo, Executive Liaison  
Telephone Number (562) 462-2721

**VOTING SYSTEM:** Election Systems & Software InkaVote Plus  
Diebold AccuVote TSx with AccuView Printer Module  
for voters with specific needs

**OBJECTIVE:** To provide a program which allows representatives from County Political Party Central Committees, Los Angeles County Grand Jury, and Community Voter Outreach Committee member organizations to observe pre-election, election-day and post election events. (Other individuals not representing the referenced organization may also apply for observer status.)

## **1.0 THE PURPOSE OF THE ELECTION OBSERVE PANEL**

- 1.1 Provide an avenue for public observation of and input into the election process.
- 1.2 Assist in ensuring the integrity of the election process.
- 1.3 Encourage participation and build voter confidence in the election process.

## **2.0 GENERAL INFORMATION**

- 2.1 The Department of Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk (RR/CC) requests participating organizations to designate a representative to observe election events (Attachment 1). The organization is responsible for the assignments, conduct and activity of their representative.
- 2.2 RR/CC Observer Coordinators act as liaison between the RR/CC and each organization informing them of election events and activities.
- 2.3 A pre-election meeting is held with participating organizations to provide an overview of the RR/CC Election Observer Panel Plan (EOPP). The RR/CC will introduce the Observer Coordinators for the respective areas of observation. Concerns or questions regarding events, personnel, or procedures are resolved during this meeting.

- 2.4** Each participating organization provides the RR/CC with the name of their representative to participate in the EOPP along with their requested area of observation.
- 2.5** The RR/CC provides the schedule of events for computer operations (Attachment 2), polling place listings and observation posts at the Tally Center to participating organizations.
- 2.6** RR/CC Observer Coordinators will provide badges, letter of introduction (if necessary), observer guidelines and reporting log (feedback form) to designated observers.

### **3.0 ELECTION NIGHT TALLY OBSERVATION**

#### **3.1 Tally Center**

An area has been designated for observer check-in at the Tally Center on election night.

#### **3.2 Observer Check-In**

Observers should report to observer check-in by 8:00 p.m. on election night where they are badged. Any rebadging requirements are resolved at check-in.

#### **3.3 Observer Orientation and Training**

Observer training is conducted by RR/CC Observer Coordinators beginning at 8:00 p.m. The training includes a general overview of Tally Center operations and an explanation of the rights and duties of the observers. Supplies are provided at this time.

#### **3.4 Observer Holding Area**

After processing and training, observers remain in the training room until they are escorted to their assigned post position.

#### **3.5 Staffing**

The recommended observer staff chart (Attachment 3) represents the maximum number of Tally Center observation areas.

ELECTION(S) 2008 PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION	DATE PREPARED 12/14/07	SECTION 7	PAGE 2
---	---------------------------	--------------	-----------

## **CHECK-IN CENTER (CIC) OBSERVATION**

### **1.0 GENERAL INFORMATION**

- 1.1** Report to the CIC by 7:30 p.m. election night and present your Letter of Introduction to the CIC Chief. The Chief will provide you with supplies and a badge which is to be worn throughout your participation at the CIC.
- 1.2** Any questions concerning procedures are directed to the CIC Chief. If an established procedure is not being utilized, notify the Chief and use the Observer Reporting Log to record the nature of the incident. Include the precinct number, group number, time of the incident, and any other details related to the problem.
- 1.3** Do not touch or handle ballots or election materials.
- 1.4** Observers may not assist in operations at any CIC.
- 1.5** Remain at the CIC until completion of all operations and clearance from Conversion/Tally Center.
- 1.6** The completed reporting log (feedback form) is to be forwarded to the RR/CC Observer Coordinator. Do not leave it with CIC personnel.
- 1.7** Return your badge, clipboard, pen, and instructions to the CIC Chief.

ELECTION(S) 2008 PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION	DATE PREPARED 12/14/07	SECTION 7	PAGE 3
---	---------------------------	--------------	-----------

## POLLING PLACE OBSERVATION

1. Report to polling place by 7:00 a.m. check-in with Inspector at polling place.
2. No eating or drinking is allowed in the polling place.
3. Your function is to observe procedures. Touching or handling any ballots or election materials is prohibited.
4. Questions concerning procedures should be directed to the inspector in charge. Observers should notify the inspector when leaving for breaks and for the evening.
5. If you believe established procedures are not being followed, report to the inspector and use the Observer Reporting Log, (please refer to pg. 15), to record the nature of the incident including precinct number, group number, time of the incident and any other details related to the problem.
6. Observers may not:
  - a. Touch any voting materials or equipment or sit at the official worktables.
  - b. Converse with voters (within 100 feet of the entrance to a polling place regarding the casting of a vote, or speak to a voter regarding his or her qualifications to vote.
  - c. Display any election material or wear campaign badges, buttons or apparel.
  - d. Wear the uniform of a peace officer, a private guard or security personnel.
  - e. Use cellular phones, pagers, or two-way radios inside the polling place and/or with 100 feet of the entrance to the polling place.
  - f. Use the telephones, computers or other polling place facilities at polling places or the central counting site.
  - g. Touch election personnel.
  - h. Eat or drink in the polls or the central counting site.
  - i. Talk to precinct workers while they are processing ballots.
  - j. Assist in operations at any polling place.

ELECTION(S) 2008 PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION	DATE PREPARED 12/14/07	SECTION 7	PAGE 4
---	---------------------------	--------------	-----------

7. Ballot security is our primary concern. Violation of security by an observer will result in his/her removal.
8. At the end of the evening return your badge, clipboard, pen and instructions.

ELECTION(S) 2008 PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION	DATE PREPARED 12/14/07	SECTION 7	PAGE 5
---	---------------------------	--------------	-----------

## TALLY CENTER

### OBSERVER POST 1 - BAG RECEIVING

---

1. Operations Performed

Receive voted ballot cards in bags from Sheriff deputies.

2. Observation Points

- a. Bags are removed from the vehicle.
- b. Bags received are properly sealed and have a CIC Control Sheet.
- c. Bags are inspected to ensure Red Boxes could not have fallen out.

3. Area Covered

Driveway - South Parking Lot

ELECTION(S) 2008 PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION	DATE PREPARED 12/14/07	SECTION 7	PAGE 6
---	---------------------------	--------------	-----------

# TALLY CENTER

## OBSERVER POST 2 - BAG TRANSPORT

---

### 1. Operations Performed

Red Boxes in bags are received from Sheriff deputies and transported to the Tally Center, 1<sup>st</sup> floor.

### 2. Observation Points

CIC bags are properly sealed during transport to Tally Center.

### 3. Area Covered

South entrance of building to container unpack.

ELECTION(S) 2008 PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION	DATE PREPARED 12/14/07	SECTION 7	PAGE 7
---	---------------------------	--------------	-----------

## **TALLY CENTER**

### **OBSERVER POST 3 - CONTAINER UNPACK, UNPACK SNAG & OPTICAL SCANNING**

---

#### **1. Operations Performed**

- a. Receive, open bags and remove Red Boxes from Check-In Centers.
- b. Inspect seal on Red Box. If seal is broken, send to Unpack Snag.
- c. Place Red Boxes in cardboard trays for scanning and distribution to inspection boards.

#### **2. Observation Points**

- a. CIC bags are properly sealed when received.
- b. Red Boxes are properly sealed or, if not sealed, boxes are referred to Unpack Snag
- c. Red Boxes are optically scanned for serial numbers.
- d. Red Boxes are placed in cardboard trays for transport to inspection boards.
- e. Ensure that bags are empty.
- f. Unpack Snag identifies and records each Red Box problem and returns the box for processing when the problem has been resolved.

#### **3. Area Covered**

1<sup>st</sup> floor - South Lobby

ELECTION(S) 2008 PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION	DATE PREPARED 12/14/07	SECTION 7	PAGE 8
---	---------------------------	--------------	-----------

# TALLY CENTER

## OBSERVER POST 4 - RED BOX TRANSPORT

---

### 1. Operations Performed

- a. Place Red Boxes in cardboard trays in transport carts.
- b. Transport carts with Red Boxes are delivered to ballot inspection.

### 2. Observation Points

- a. Red Boxes are properly sealed and placed in transport carts.
- b. Snagged Red Boxes are properly identified and delivered to Ballot Inspection Snag.
- c. Transport card handlers follow a special route for delivery of Red Boxes.

### 3. Area Covered

1st floor to 3rd floor inspection area. (Designated elevators)

ELECTION(S) 2008 PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION	DATE PREPARED 12/14/07	SECTION 7	PAGE 9
---	---------------------------	--------------	-----------

# TALLY CENTER

## OBSERVER POST 5 - BALLOT INSPECTION

---

### 1. Operations Performed

- a. Each inspection board receives one sealed Red Box at a time, opens and checks the voted ballots inside to ensure that the Red Box and cards are from the same precinct, and inspects the ballots in preparation for computer processing.
- b. Places cards that will not process in the Withheld Card Boxes and records number on Withheld Ballot Log.
- c. Takes Absentee Voter identification envelopes from Red Box for storage in brown supply boxes for official canvass.
- d. Red Boxes with problems are sent to Ballot Snag Operation area accompanied with a completed snag identification form.

### 2. Observation Points

- a. Seal on Red Box is not broken before reaching inspection board.
- b. Board determines if there are any problems with Red Box, identifies problems, completes snag identification form, and gives snagged Red Box to runner for delivery to Ballot Snag Operation.
- c. Ballot inspectors properly handle and inspect ballot cards by not bending, perforating or otherwise damaging cards.
- d. After inspection, processable cards are placed in metal card trays.

### 3. Area Covered 3<sup>rd</sup> floor - Room 3001

ELECTION(S) 2008 PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION	DATE PREPARED 12/14/07	SECTION 7	PAGE 10
---	---------------------------	--------------	------------

# TALLY CENTER

## OBSERVER POST 6 - BALLOT SNAG OPERATION

---

### 1. Operations Performed

- a. Each inspection board receives one snag Red Box, at a time, accompanied by a snag identification form which identifies problem(s). Voted ballots are inspected to prepare them for computer processing.
- b. Snag Red Boxes with broken seals or other problems are received from Container Unpack with a snag identification form and processed through the inspection operation.
- c. Board receives Red Boxes and corrects problem with ballot cards, (e.g., precinct number on box and ballot cards do not match, damaged cards, all ballot cards in gray envelope, etc.).
- d. Places cards that will not process in the Withheld Card Box and records number on Withheld Ballot Log.

### 2. Observation Points

- a. Each precinct is properly recorded and the problem identified.
- b. All problems on ballots are properly corrected and any damaged cards are placed in the Withheld Card Boxes.
- c. Problem precincts are handled separately.
- d. After inspection, cards are transported to MTS Room for computer processing.

### 3. Area Covered

3<sup>rd</sup> floor - Room 3001

ELECTION(S) 2008 PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION	DATE PREPARED 12/14/07	SECTION 7	PAGE 11
---	---------------------------	--------------	------------

# TALLY CENTER

## OBSERVER POST 7 - BALLOT TRANSPORT

---

### 1. Operation Performed

- a. Metal trays with ballots are placed on tables for Microcomputer Tally System (MTS) staff.
- b. Trays are passed to the MTS staff on a flow basis.

### 2. Observation Points

- a. Trays are placed onto tables in an orderly manner.
- b. Tray handlers transport ballots on a flow basis.
- c. Transport card handlers follow the prescribed route to the MTS Computer Room.
- d. Trays are placed on MTS receiving tables as directed by distribution supervisor.

### 3. Area Covered

3rd floor - MTS Computer Room 3201

ELECTION(S) 2008 PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION	DATE PREPARED 12/14/07	SECTION 7	PAGE 12
---	---------------------------	--------------	------------

# TALLY CENTER

## OBSERVER POST 8 - MTS PROCESSING ROOM

---

### 1. Operations Performed

- a. Incoming ballot trays are directed to the MTS systems on a flow basis.
- b. Each MTS computer reads the votes on ballot cards and tabulates the results for inclusion on the Election Results Bulletin.
- c. The bulletin number and time are placed on each press bulletin.
- d. Each bulletin is signed-off by an observer from one party, rotating party sign-off with each succeeding bulletin.
- e. After processing, ballots are placed in card cabinets and the storage location is recorded.

### 2. Observation Points

- a. Ballots are received in metal card trays.
- b. Ballots are processed properly in the MTS systems.
- c. All ballots are properly stored and recorded immediately after being processed.
- d. All error conditions are properly corrected.
- e. Non-processable precincts are given to a supervisor.
- f. Observers sign Withheld Card Box and Ballot Cabinet Sealing notices.
- g. An observer and a RR/CC representative seal ballot storage card cabinets.

### 3. Area Covered 3<sup>rd</sup> floor each - MTS Room 3201

ELECTION(S) 2008 PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION	DATE PREPARED 12/14/07	SECTION 7	PAGE 13
---	---------------------------	--------------	------------

## POLITICAL OBSERVER REPORTING LOG

## Presidential Primary Election, February 5, 2008

POST NO.	NAME
----------	------

<u>CHECK-IN CENTER:</u>	PARTY
-------------------------	-------

(SUBMIT THIS LOG TO YOUR PARTY COORDINATOR)

[illegible]



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

**REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK**12400 IMPERIAL HWY. - P.O. BOX 1024, NORWALK, CALIFORNIA 90651-1024 [www.lavote.net](http://www.lavote.net)**DEAN C. LOGAN**

Acting Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk

January 16, 2008

Dear Community Voter Outreach Committee Member:

This is to inform you of the opportunity for representatives from your organization to observe election activities in support of the Presidential Primary Election to be held on February 5, 2008. Representatives from County Political Party Central Committees, Community Voter Outreach Committee member organizations and the Los Angeles County Grand Jury are being invited to participate in this program.

Panel members are afforded the opportunity to observe logic and accuracy testing of election systems equipment, vote by mail processing, election day polling locations and check-in centers, tally center operations and post election processing.

Should your organization be interested in participating please contact Maria Vadai at (562) 462-2662 by January 23, 2008 with the name and contact information for your representative. A meeting with panel members has been scheduled for January 24, 2008 at 5:00 p.m. in the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk Department's seventh floor Executive Conference Room. All necessary materials for participation in this program will be distributed at the meeting.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Vadai at the above referenced number.

Sincerely,

Dean C. Logan  
Acting Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk

DS:ifs

## Political Observer Schedule of Events for Computer Operations Presidential Primary Election – February 5, 2008

The following is a schedule of events for computer operations. The times for some events are subject to change, as noted. The dates listed for Official Canvass processing may change.

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION*
<b>Friday (01/11) to Thursday (01/24)</b>	8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.	<b><u>InkaVote Plus System Programming</u></b> (Daily as needed)	<b>Election Operations Center Santa Fe Springs</b>
<b>Thursday (01/17)</b>	1:00 pm to 3:00pm	<b><u>AccuVote TSX L&amp;A</u></b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Floor - MTS</b>
<b>Tuesday (01/22)</b>	11:00 am to 12:00pm	<b><u>InkaVote Plus L&amp;A</u></b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Floor - MTS</b>
<b>Thursday (01/24)</b>	11:00 am to 12:00pm	<b><u>MTS L&amp;A</u></b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> floor - MTS</b>
<b>Monday (01/28) to Friday (02/01)</b>	8: a.m. to 5:00 p.m.	<b><u>Political Observers Sign</u></b> Official L&A and Official files	<b>ARR/CC office Tech Services 7<sup>th</sup> floor</b>
<b>Saturday (02/02)</b>		<b><u>Election Simulation</u></b> (optional)	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> floor–MTS</b>
	10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	Personnel Check-in  Personnel Release	
<b>Monday (01/28) to Monday (02/04)</b>	1:00 p.m. 1:15 p.m. 4:00 p.m.	<b><u>AV Ballot Processing</u></b> (Daily as needed) Personnel Check-in Begin AV Ballot Conversion End AV Ballot Conversion	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> floor–MTS</b>

*\*Location: 12400 E. Imperial Highway, Norwalk*

# Political Observer Schedule of Events for Computer Operations Presidential Primary Election – February 5, 2008

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION*
<b>Tuesday (02/05)</b>		<b><u>Election Day Processing And AV Ballot Processing</u></b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> floor–MTS</b>
	12:30 p.m.	Personnel Check-in	
	1:00 p.m.	Begin AV Ballot Conversion	
	3:00 p.m.	Begin L&A's	
	5:30 p.m.	Personnel Release for Dinner Break	
<b>Tuesday (02/05)</b>		<b><u>Election Night Processing</u></b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> floor–MTS</b>
	7:30 p.m.	Personnel Check-in	
	8:00 p.m.	Begin Ballot Processing	
<b>Wednesday (02/06)</b>		<b><u>Post Election Night Processing</u></b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> floor-MTS</b>
	3:45 a.m.	Seal Ballot Storage Cabinets	
	4:30 a.m.	End of Election Personnel Release	
		<b><u>Official Canvass</u></b>	
<b>Friday (02/08)</b>	10:00 a.m.	Run 2 AV Ballots only	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Floor-MTS</b>
<b>Tuesday (02/12)</b>	10:00 a.m. to 11:55 a.m.	Run 3 with AV Ballots	“
<b>Friday (02/15)</b>	“	Run 4 with AV Ballots	“
<b>Tuesday (02/19)</b>	“	Run 5	“
<b>Friday (02/22)</b>	“	Run 6	“

*\*Location: 12400 E. Imperial Highway, Norwalk*

## RECOMMENDED OBSERVER STAFFING

**Presidential Primary Election, February 5, 2008**

	No.	CCC	CGJ	CVOC
1. Bag Receiving	3			
2. Bag Transport	1			
3. Unpack, Snag & OpSCAN	3			
4. Red Box Transport	2			
5. Ballot Inspection	5			
6. Ballot Snag Operation	2			
7. Ballot Transport	2			
8. MTS Viewing	3			

Please note - These represent suggested number of observers.

CCC= County Political Party Central Committees

CGJ= Los Angeles County Grand Jury

CVOC= Community Voter Outreach Committee member organizations